

REMARKS

The Official Action dated April 16, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully noted. In view thereof, non-elected claims 1-16 and 20 have been canceled in their entirety without prejudice nor disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the patentability of such claims by way of one or more divisional applications. Accordingly, claims 17-19 and 21-31 are presently pending in the instant application.

Initially, with reference to paragraph 1 of the Office Action, Applicant hereby confirms the election of Group II, claims 17-19 and 21-31 for examination on the merits in the present application.

With respect to paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to the title as not being descriptive and requested that a new title that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed be set forth. In this regard, as can be seen from the foregoing amendments, the title of the invention has been amended to recite an "Electronic Mail System" rather than an Information Communication System. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the title as ultimately amended is clearly indicative of Applicants' claimed invention.

With reference to paragraph 6 of the Office Action, claims 17-19 and 21-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,978,836 issued to Ouchi. This rejection is respectfully traversed in that the patent to Ouchi neither discloses nor remotely suggest that which is presently set forth by Applicants' claimed invention.

With respect to independent claim 17, this claim recites electronic mail data transmitted from a broadcasting device to a receiving device through a communication path, which is different from a broadcasting path, the data comprising a body region describing content of the electronic mail, and an auxiliary region describing data necessary for transmitting the electronic mail wherein operation control data for controlling an operation mode of the receiving device is included in the auxiliary region of the data. More particularly, independent claim 17 recites that the electronic mail data includes operation control data for controlling an operation mode of the receiving device which is sent from a broadcasting device to the receiving device through another communication path other than a broadcasting path which is used to carry broadcasting signals from the broadcasting device to the receiving device. By introducing such feature, the broadcasting device can control

operation of the receiving device which displays content of the broadcasting signal. In this regard, it is noted that the patent to Ouchi discloses electronic mail which includes status data. The server (form a root manager) decides to which terminal the electric mail should be transferred based on the status data. However, Ouchi neither discusses nor is concerned with a broadcasting system nor does this reference disclose electronic mail data which is sent through another path other than a broadcasting path. In Ouchi, there is no discussion or disclosure that electronic mail data including operation control data for controlling an operation of the receiving devices sent from a broadcasting device to the receiving device through another communication path other than a broadcasting path which is used to carry a broadcasting signal from a broadcasting device to the receiving device. In accordance with Applicants' claimed invention, the broadcasting device can control operation of the receiving device which displays content of the broadcasting signal. Clearly, the patent to Ouchi fails to disclose or remotely suggest this feature.

With respect to dependent claim 18, this claim includes all the limitations of independent claim 17 and is directed to a computer readable storage medium for storing the electronic data set forth in independent claim 17. Accordingly, in that the patent to Ouchi fails to disclose or remotely suggest the electronic mail data as set forth in independent claim 17, it is respectfully submitted that dependent claim 18 is likewise in proper condition for allowance.

With reference now to claim 19, this claim is likewise dependent upon independent claim 17 and includes all the limitations thereof. Furthermore, this claim goes on to recite that the operation control data is data for controlling a user interface of the receiving device which is neither disclosed in nor suggested by the teachings of Ouchi.

Claim 19 further defines the operation control data set forth in independent claim 17 as data for controlling a user interface of the receiving device. In doing so, the broadcasting device can control user interface of the receiving device which displays content of the broadcasting signal.

In reviewing the Ouchi reference, it is noted that this reference discloses changing the user interface as a function of the workflow program of the mail program but not control user interface by operation data of the electronic mail data. Ouchi fails to disclose the operation control data which is data for controlling a user interface of the receiving device which is specifically recited by Applicants' claimed invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 19 clearly distinguishes over the teachings of Ouchi and is in proper

condition for allowance.

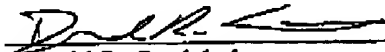
With reference to claims 21-31, each of these claims include limitations similar to those set forth in independent claims 17 and 19. Particularly, independent claim 21 is directed to an electronic mail system of which a transmission device transmits electronic mail to a receiving device and the receiving device outputs the received electronic mail for the user. Particularly, the transmission device transmits operation control data for controlling a user interface of the receiving device when a control related with a body of the electronic mail is performed at the receiving device, together with the body of electronic mail so as to be included in the body. Furthermore, the receiving device outputs the body of the received electronic mail to the user and constructs the user interface for performing a control related with the body of the electronic mail in accordance with the received operation controlled data. As noted hereinabove, Ouchi merely discloses to change the user interface as a function of a workflow program of a mail program but does not control a user interface by operation data of the electronic mail data. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 21 clearly distinguishes over the teachings of Ouchi.

With respect claims 22-31, as the Examiner can readily appreciate each of these claims recite that the operation control data is data for controlling a user interface of the receiving device that the broadcasting device can control user interface of the receiving device which displays content of the broadcasting signal thereby constructing the user interface for performing a control related with the body of the electronic mail in accordance with operation control data transmitted by the body of the electronic mail. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that each of these claims likewise clearly distinguish over the teachings of Ouchi.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the rejections of record be reconsidered and withdrawn by the Examiner, and that claims 17-19 and 21-31 be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner believe a conference would be of benefit in expediting the prosecution in the instant application, he is hereby invited to telephone counsel to arrange such a conference.

Respectfully submitted,


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